

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 039305

73

ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 TRSE-00 /012 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:MPALMER:MAJ

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN

EA/ANP - MMICHAUD (SUBSTANCE)

L/PM - TBOREK (SUBSTANCE)

TREAS/CUSTOMS - JHDENNIS (SUB)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

L/ECP-EMAURER

----- 130977

R 211645Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 039305

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SCUL

SUBJECT:ALLEGED THEFT OF TABOR ISLAND ARTIFACT

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 90 B. PORT MORESBY 185

1. CUSTOMS HAS LOCATED ARTIFACT IN POSSESSION OF BEN HELLER, NEW YORK. CUSTOMS HAS NOT RPT NOT SEIZED ARTIFACT. HELLER TOLD CUSTOMS HE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS OBJECT'S RETURN WITH APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS DESIGNATED BY PNG. IN ADDITION, IF REQUESTED BY PNG, NEW YORK CUSTOMS AGENTS WILL MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES.

2. IT APPEARS BEN HELLER HAS NOT VIOLATED ANY US CUSTOMS LAW OR REGULATION, AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY CRIMINAL STATUTE HAS BEEN VIOLATED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ANY LEGAL ACTION FOR RETURN OF OBJECT TO TABOR ISLAND WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON PNG INITIATIVE IN COURT OF APPROPRIATE JURISDICTION, THE SUCCESS OF WHICH ACTION WOULD DEPEND UPON PNG PROVING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 039305

TITLE TO ARTIFACT, WHICH COULD INVOLVE EXTENSIVE

LITIGATION. HELLER TOLD CUSTOMS THAT HE BOUGHT OBJECT
FOR CONSIDERABLE SUM FROM DEALER IN PARIS, AND INDICATED
THAT MONEY WILL BE A FACTOR IN RETURN.

3. BECAUSE NO CUSTOMS REGULATION OR STATUTE APPEAR
TO HAVE BEEN VIOLATED, US CUSTOMS UNABLE TO SEIZE
OBJECT. SINCE OTHER LEGAL REMEDIES WOULD BE TIME
CONSUMING AT BEST, PNG MAY WISH DESIGNATE OFFICIALS
TO MEET WITH HELLER AND USG AUTHORITIES IN US TO WORK OUT
AMICABLE SOLUTION AS MOST PRACTICAL NEXT STEP. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, THEFTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE039305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPALMER:MAJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750063-0575
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750223/aaaaauaw.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT MORESBY 90, 75 PORT MORESBY 185
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LLEGED THEFT OF TABOR ISLAND ARTIFACT
TAGS: SCUL
To: PORT MORESBY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006